QUEENS GARDEN WORKSHEET:

1. Describe the stasis in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

We are in California on the Westside in 1966. The story includes Kali, Aunti Mary, Smoke, Sherry, Steve, Brenda, and Brenda’s parents. The play starts in Brenda’s childhood, when she is still disillusioned about the realities of the Westside.

2. What is the intrusion?

I think the intrusion is the moment when Brenda and Kali are talking after their first day at high school and Brenda realizes how different their educations are even though they are both Westsiders. I think this is the first moment where the way she used to view her home begins to shift.  
  
3. What is the unique factor?

This is the day that Brenda decided to tell us her life story.  
  
4. What is the dramatic question that should be answered by the end of the play?

What happened to the people from Brenda’s childhood?  
  
5. Provide an illustration of the two kinds of exposition that the play has in it.

The prologue at the beginning is one type of exposition, and another type would be Brenda’s narration of her thoughts in between scenes.  
  
6. Identify the most theatrical moment in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

This whole play is really theatrical, but the most theatrical moment is probably the shoot off at the end where Aunti Mary’s garden is the stage, and her roses switch from a symbol of royalty to a symbol of death, of blood.   
  
7. List some of the themes of the play.

Some themes in this play include education, language, inclusion, and responsibility.  
  
8. What does the narrator want and what are some obstacles that stand in the way of her getting what she wants?

It’s kind of hard to tell what Brenda wants sometimes, I think what she wants is in flux throughout the play. At one point she wants to go to college, at another point she drops out because she decides college isn’t for her. The only thing we know for sure is what she doesn’t want to become, which is a westside fat mama. An obstacle to this is Kali- she loves Kali and he loves her, but he expects her to stay and marry him and become his house wife, and she has no plans of doing that.  
  
9. Describe some possible images in the play and how does the title help us understand the play.

One of the last scenes, when Smoke and Kali come to a head, she mentions the queen’s roses crushed and lying on the ground, red, red, big as cabbages.  
  
10. Briefly define the family relationships that are examined in the play.

As with many of the other plays we’ve studied, the Queens Garden portrays the westside as one big family with smaller families throughout it. Smoke isn’t Aunti Mary’s kid, but she takes him in after his parents are gone because of how much Kali loves him. Same with Brenda, Aunti Mary takes her in because of her relationship with Kali. Aunti Mary acts as a mother figure to most of the kids on the westside. There’s an expectation of loyalty and follow through, especially among racial groups on the westside. It’s expected that the islanders take care of each other, the Asian Americans take care of each other, the Mexicans take care of each other, and so on. Ohana por vida, family for life, is the familial concept that rules the Westside.